Demographic Trends

CalFresh Caseload Demographics:

Child-Only Households: Extracted from the California Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS). CDSS tabulation of the MEDS Monthly Extract File provided to CDSS by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Households containing only individuals under the age of 18.

Persons in Child-Only Households: Extracted from MEDS. CDSS tabulation of the MEDS Monthly Extract File provided to CDSS by DHCS. Individuals under the age of 18 in a CalFresh household in which no one is over the age of 17.

English as a Second Language (ESL): Extracted from the California Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS). CDSS staff tabulation of the MEDS (July) Monthly Extract File provided to CDSS by DHCS (using the Language field).

Children (Under 18): Extracted from the California Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS). CDSS staff tabulation of the MEDS (July) Monthly Extract File provided to CDSS by DHCS.

Elderly (60+): Extracted from the California Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS). CDSS staff tabulation of the MEDS (July) Monthly Extract File provided to CDSS by DHCS.

County/State General Population Demographics:

Total Population: California Department of Finance State and County Population Projections (2010-2060). Extracted from Report P-2: State and County Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity and Age (5-year groups): 2010-2060 (by year).

Elderly Population (60+): California Department of Finance State and County Population Projections (2010-2060). Extracted from Report P-2: State and County Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity and Age (5-year groups): 2010-2060 (by year).

Population Under Age 18: California Department of Finance State and County Population Projections (2010-2060). Report P-3: State and County Total Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity and Detailed Age, 2010-2060 (by year).

English as a Second Language (ESL) Population (≥ 5 years old): Extracted from: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B16005 ("Nativity by

Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over"). Within the B16005 table, we use the sum of those who speak English "not well" and "not at all" in each county.

SSI Recipients (State Data Exchange): Annual Average SSI/SSP Recipients by County, excluding state living arrangement codes B, C, and J.

Unemployment Rate: Extracted from the California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division. Monthly rate, not seasonally adjusted.

Persons Receiving Medi-Cal: California Department of Health Care Services, Research and Analytic Studies Division. "Medi-Cal Certified Eligibles" by county. http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/statistics/Pages/Medi-Cal-Certified-EligiblesRecentTrends.aspx.

Participation Trends

CalFresh Households Annual: CalFresh Participation and Benefit Issuance Report (DFA 256). This is a 12-month state fiscal year and calendar year average of federal-only, federal/state, and state-only households (Cells 15, 16, & 17).

CalFresh Households Monthly: CalFresh Participation and Benefit Issuance Report (DFA 256). This is the sum of federal-only, federal/state, and state-only households (Cells 15, 16, & 17) for each month.

CalFresh Persons Annual: CalFresh Participation and Benefit Issuance Report (DFA 256). This is a 12-month state fiscal year and calendar year average of persons in federal-only, federal/state, and state-only households (Cells 18, 19, 20, & 21).

CalFresh Persons Monthly: CalFresh Participation and Benefit Issuance Report (DFA 256). This is the sum of persons in federal-only, federal/state, and state-only households (Cells 18, 19, 20, & 21) for each month.

Medi-Cal Recipients Likely Eligible for CalFresh: MEDS, June 2017 point-in-time extract. Excludes SSI population, undocumented individuals, correctional facility inmates, and individuals with income greater than 200% FPL. Individuals with missing MEDS county codes are also excluded from the analysis. Also see "Finding Potential CalFresh Participants Using Your Medi-Cal Caseload Data: A Step-by-Step Guide" by the Alliance to Transform CalFresh for methodological guidance. Key terms and abbreviations: Federal Poverty Level (FPL); Share of Cost (SOC); California Food Assistance Program (CFAP);

Supplemental Security Income (SSI); California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids program (CalWORKs).

% of CalFresh Recipients, Ages 0-4, Enrolled in WIC: The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, & Children (WIC), administered by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). CDPH administrative data and MEDS data, March 2016 point-in-time.

WIC Recipients, Ages 0-4, Likely Reachable by CalFresh: The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, & Children (WIC), administered by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). CDPH administrative data and MEDS data, March 2016 point-in-time. WIC recipients, ages 0-4, who do not receive CalFresh, but are likely eligible based on income and other criteria relevant to CalFresh program participation.

% Medi-Cal Receiving CalFresh: California Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) - Percent of Medi-Cal Recipients Receiving CalFresh Benefits using all Medi-Cal aid codes and all CalFresh aid codes. A weighted percentage of Total Medi-Cal Recipients receiving CalFresh Benefits based on the MEDS Monthly Extract File provided to CDSS by DHCS.

% CalFresh Persons Receiving Medi-Cal: California Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) - Percent of Medi-Cal Recipients Receiving CalFresh using all Medi-Cal aid codes and all CalFresh aid codes. This is a percentage of Total CalFresh recipients receiving Medi-Cal Benefits based on the MEDS Monthly Extract File provided to CDSS by DHCS.

CalFresh Persons Receiving Medi-Cal: California Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS). This is the number of CalFresh Recipients receiving Medi-Cal Benefits based on the MEDS Monthly Extract File provided to CDSS by DHCS.

Total Applications Received: CalFresh Monthly Caseload Movement Statistical Report (CF 296), Item 1 (data cell 1) "Applications received during the month."

Online Applications Received: CalFresh Monthly Caseload Movement Statistical Report (CF 296), Item 1a (data cell 2) "Online applications received during the month."

Program Reach Index (PRI): The Program Reach Index is a new measure of CalFresh access developed by CDSS. It is modeled after the Program Access Index (PAI) used by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United Stated Department of Agriculture (USDA) to calculate the percentage of eligible persons receiving SNAP. It has been modified by CDSS to calculate county PRI, by excluding estimates of persons who cannot receive CalFresh due to their immigration status, and SSI/SSP recipients who are not eligible for CalFresh. Please click here for information on the PRI methodology.

The PRI differs from the PAI developed by FNS and adopted for counties by the California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) in two important respects. First, FNS uses a threshold of 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) from the American Community Survey (ACS) to obtain an estimate of eligible persons. The PRI makes a linear extrapolation to raise the threshold to 130%. PRI does not use the new California threshold of 200% due to the amount of deductions required to meet the second federal requirement – a net income of 100% below federal poverty level. We have found the 130% gross to be a good proxy for the 100% net FPL requirement. Secondly, the PAI makes no adjustment for ineligibility due to citizenship status; the PRI does. The California Food Policy Advocates model their calculation of county level PAI on FNS' methodology. These measures do not reflect the true participation rate in California as the denominators include a portion of the estimated 2.83 million individuals who are not eligible for SNAP due to their immigration status. In the 11-step process shown in this data dashboard, the PRI estimates and removes from the CalFresh denominator, adults who are not eligible for SNAP due to their immigration status.

PRI uses three data sources:
- MEDs: Point-in-time data; June of every year.
- DFA 256: State and county-wide rates.
- ACS: 1-year for state and 41 largest counties. 5-year for the remaining 17 counties.

CDSS followed the following procedures for calculating the Program Reach Index (PRI):
1. Obtain the PRI numerator - yearly average of CalFresh persons by county for calendar year 2015.
2. Obtain the number of persons below 125% of the federal poverty level (FPL) (ACS 5yr. 2011-2015).
3. Increase the 125% FPL obtained in step 2 linearly to estimate the number below the California threshold of 130% FPL.
4. Obtain the number of child-only households (where the oldest member in CalFresh AU is under 18) by county and apply a factor of 0.94 (for example 100 child-only households are reduced to 94 households).
5. Apply a factor of 1.77 to obtain a count of adults in each child-only household (in the above example: 94 x 1.77 = 166).
6. Apply a factor of 1.70 to obtain a count of adults in households without children (in the above example, 166 x 1.70 = 283).
7. Obtain an estimate of adults who are not eligible for SNAP due to their immigration status by applying steps 4, 5 and 6 to county total of child-only households.
8. Obtain an estimate of SSI recipients below 130% FPL using the ACS 5-years PUMS dataset for each county.
9. Subtract the numbers in steps 7 and 8 from the number in step 3 to obtain a new denominator.

10. Subtract the number of children who are not eligible for SNAP due to their immigration status from the adjusted denominator obtained in step 9.

11. Divide step 1 by step 9 to obtain county Program Reach Index (PRI).

Note: Single-year poverty estimates are available for the largest 41 counties. This makes year-over-year PRI comparisons valid between these counties only. The PRI for counties listed below is a based on five-year poverty estimates. PRI comparisons for the five-year counties are available for the 2007 through 2011 period and the 2012 through 2016 period. The five-year counties are: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Inyo, Lassen, Mariposa, Modoc, Mono, Plumas, San Benito, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, and Tuolumne.

Timeliness and Accuracy Trends

Percent of Expedited Service Benefits Issued in 1-3 Days:

Prior to July 2016 (Quarterly): This data element was captured on a quarterly basis from the CalFresh Expedited Service Quarterly Statistical Report (DFA 296X). Formula: Total number of PAFS & NAFS benefits issued in 1-3 days divided by total number of PAFS & NAFS benefits issued. Data taken from Cells 11 & 14.

July 2016 – Current (Monthly): This data element is now captured on a monthly basis from the CalFresh Monthly Caseload Movement Statistical Report (CF 296). Formula: Total number of PAFS & NAFS benefits issued in 1-3 days divided by total number of PAFS & NAFS benefits issued. Data taken from Cells 28 & 31.

Applications Approved Within 30 Days (Monthly %): Extracted from the CalFresh Monthly Caseload Movement Statistical Report (CF 296). Formula: (1) - Total of PAFS Approved in Over 30 Days + NAFS Approved in Over 30 Days divided by the Total Approved Applications for Food Stamps for each month, resulting in quarterly totals.

Active Error Rate (Cumulative Monthly %): Extracted from the RADEP system within the Federal Data Reporting and Analysis Bureau. Cumulative FFY data is displayed for each month.

The CalFresh County Error Rate, also referred to as the Active Error Rate, measures the accuracy of the benefit amount issued to the participant of the program at the county level. It is calculated by adding the total amount of all over-and-under issuances of benefits divided by the total amount of benefits issued for that sample month.

Quality control (QC) is part of the Performance Reporting System, and it is federally required and governed by 7 CFR 275 Subpart C – Quality Control Reviews. The QC reviews are conducted by the 19 Performance Measurement Counties (PMC) and the State of California. The State reviews the remaining 39 (non-PMC) counties and has direct oversight of the QC process. Based on the QC review results, an error rate is established. The results are used as basis for corrective action to improve program accuracy. For active cases, approximately 5,000 cases are sampled per year to determine CalFresh issuance accuracy. This includes both Federal and State QC review cases. Of these, the state completes an average of 120 cases per year. To ensure the lowest possible error rate, integrity and accuracy, the state re-reviews all active QC cases drawn for the Federal sample for both county and state staff.

In February 2017, the state started generating individual county error rate reporting for the 39 non-PMC. Due to the systematic random sampling procedure used to select the samples, small county will rarely get sample drawn and thus will show no error rate. If a sample is drawn, the resultant error rate might be high as it is measured against the total amount of benefits issued to the entire 39 non-PMC, thus resulting in a consolidated rate for the 39 non-PMC counties. Division 15-110 defines the small county sample as, a sample composed of Federal and additional county food stamp cases that are selected from counties not participating in the county performance sample and reviewed by CDSS to provide additional information to include in a statewide data base.

Negative Error Rate (Cumulative Monthly %): The number of cases either terminated in error, denied in error, or suspended in error divided by the number of completed cases. Extracted from the federal SNAPQCS system on a monthly basis. Active error rates for the 39 small caseload counties (non-PMCs) are calculated using pooled sample cases across these counties, producing a single active error rate which is assigned to Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba counties. The remaining 19 counties with larger caseloads (PMCs; Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Merced, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Solano, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Ventura counties) each have unique active error rates based on calculations using only their respective sample cases.

Negative Error Rate Cases Completed (Cumulative Monthly Frequency): The number of cases completed and used for the purposes of determining the negative error rate. The denominator from the negative error rate formula presented in the definition above.

Churn Trends

Recertification Churn (County Consortia Data): Total CalFresh cases that reapplied within 30 and 90 days divided by the total applications received.

Total Churn (County Consortia Data): Total CalFresh applications that received benefits in the previous 30 and 90 days divided by the total applications received.

Miscellaneous

Consortium: This "Consortium" column in each of the raw data tables refers to the electronic case management systems used by California counties. Counties participating in the C-IV consortium include Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, and Yuba. Counties participating in the CalWIN consortium include Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Orange, Placer, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Tulare, Ventura, and Yolo. The County of Los Angeles uses the LEADER Replacement System (LRS) case management platform.